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AUGUST 19, 1963

**AUSTRALIA AND ITS
WATER PROBLEM**

**THE MEXICAN
STRAWBERRY INDUSTRY**

P.L. 480 AND INDIA

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

Including FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

**A WEEKLY MAGAZINE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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AUGUST 19, 1963

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Australia's schemes for more farm water range from damming creeks, like the one here irrigating rice, to diverting the flow of a big river.

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AUSTRALIA and Its Water Problem

By MARY ELLEN LONG
*Regional Analysis Division
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Ever since 1770, when Captain Cook claimed parts of Australia for the British Crown, farmers on that island continent have been struggling with a built-in difficulty—insufficient water. In the summer of 1962, Australia took a long step into its agricultural future with the creation of a national water resources council, composed of Ministers of the various States and charged with determining where development of water resources would be most likely to stimulate economic growth.

As the new organization worked to assess the country's present and future water supply, it became apparent that high priority in water use will go to areas producing a number of farm commodities that are of prime interest to U.S. farmers. Two of these commodities — cotton and tobacco — are currently being imported from the United States in sizable quantities. Others, such as rice, oilseeds, fruits, tallow, and variety meats, will provide increased competition for U.S. products in many world markets.

Inadequate rainfall

Australia, with a land area of 2,970,000 square miles, is roughly the size of the United States. Yet it averages only 17 inches of rainfall a year compared with 30 in the United States—less than most other large land masses. In vast areas of the country, lack of water has severely retarded farm development.

Even worse than the scantiness of the rainfall is its extremely uneven distribution. Most of the moisture occurs on the north and east coasts and in Tasmania. Some northern parts of Queensland average more than 90 inches of rainfall a year. Most of the

interior, however, receives less than 20 inches. The whole center of the continent, over a million square miles, is virtually a desert; and it is ringed by vast arid steppes where livestock ranching is the only form of agriculture possible.

The inadequacy of Australia's rainfall is reflected by wide variations in the flow of its rivers. In some years, this variability results from the absence of large snow accumulations on the mountains. In addition, throughout the continent there is no well-coordinated drainage system. In the higher sections of the coastal areas, rainfall deposits drain to the Pacific on the east or to the Indian Ocean on the west; they never reach the country's arid interior.

Scanty water reserves

Several artesian basins are scattered throughout Australia, but the water generally available from them varies from locality to locality, and also from year to year depending on the actual amount of rainwater deposited and the use of water for agriculture. In late years, the drain on these water supplies in some areas has been greater than the rate of natural restoration, and thus their overall water level has tended to drop.

Some of this water contains either too much mineral or too much salt to be usable for watering stock or for continuous irrigation. Only in Queensland has underground water been used for irrigation to any extent. However, government surveys have found underground sources in the Alice Springs area of the Northern Territory and in parts of Western Australia, where ample supplies are believed to be available for irrigating crops, particularly pastures.

Some of this water has a high nitrate content that is expected to lessen the need for nitrogenous fertilizers.

The average total flow of all Australia's rivers is estimated at only 60 million acres-feet a year as compared with about 900 million for the 10 major rivers in the United States. Paul R. Dann of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture has estimated that if the average annual flow of Australia's rivers were spread evenly over the continent, the depth would be about 1-1/3 inches—hardly enough to wet an observer's feet. In contrast, the United States from its 10 main rivers alone would be covered 6 inches deep—well over galosh-top height.

Perennial streams exist only in the Murray-Darling complex, in a narrow strip of land along the northern and eastern coasts, and in a small area of Western Australia. Watercourses in most of the interior persist for short distances only, drying up quickly even after the heaviest rains.

The Murray and its main tributaries—the Murrumbidgee, Darling, and Goulburn—comprise the largest river system in Australia. Rising in the Snowy Mountains along the eastern seaboard, and flowing west and south to the Indian Ocean, it extends over 414,000 square miles or about a seventh of the continent. Despite this large area of coverage, the system has a total annual flow of only about 10 million acre-feet—less than half as much as the Danube, about a seventh as much as the Nile, and a fourteenth as much as the Columbia River in the United States.

Most maps of Australia indicate numerous lakes scattered throughout the interior. But, except in high rainfall periods, most of them are either completely dry or else so salty as to be unsuited to crops or livestock.

Irrigation projects

The overall scantiness of rainfall in Australia and the irregularity of stream flow stimulated government sponsorship of irrigation projects as far back as the late 19th century. Even then, it was recognized that irrigation would not be successful unless storage reservoirs of some type were constructed to store water from season to season.

Considerable amounts of government capital have been, and are still being, spent on schemes to increase Australia's water supply, both for hydroelectric power and for irrigation of farmlands. The total irrigated area now utilized in farming is approximately 2 million acres, about 25 percent of it located in New South Wales. With the completion of major irrigation projects and other water development schemes now under construction or being planned, it is predicted that by 1975 about 6 million acres will be "under the ditch." At least 500,000 of these newly irrigated farm acres are expected to result from the Snowy Mountain Project, Australia's major hydroelectric-irrigation scheme, scheduled to be completed about 1970. This scheme involves the diversion of the Snowy River from its present eastward course (through land already well watered) to augment the flow and the irrigation capacity of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers, which flow toward the thirstier regions of the west.

Other important water schemes that have been developed over the years are the Eildon and Hume Reservoirs on the

Goulburn and Murray Rivers; the Deniboota Irrigation District on the Edward River; the Tinaroo Falls Dam, northern Queensland; the Burrendong Dam, New South Wales; and the Menindee Storage Scheme on the Darling River, New South Wales.

In addition to major projects, smaller dams or weirs have been constructed on the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers and in parts of Queensland. These smaller reservoirs have made possible the extension of irrigation channels already operating in these sections.

The Federal and State Governments are now giving attention to the conservation of water resources for promoting irrigation over larger areas of northern Australia, with projects in Western Australia, Queensland, and the Northern Territory. Considerable effort is being put into developing the Adelaide and Ord River systems of the Kimberley regions in Western Australia. Dam and reservoir facilities already erected there are to be expanded to irrigate about 250,000 acres, or more than 6 times the present irrigated area. Preliminary plans have been drawn up for reservoirs or weirs in Queensland, to store surface water that normally drains east to the Pacific through such basins as those of the Burdekin River, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall. To date, the possibility of developing water resources in the Northern Territory has been subject to only minor exploration, but a potential exists in greater use of the Daly, Roper, and Victoria Rivers for irrigation, whenever population growth in the north warrants the expenditure for water conservation.

Crop expansion and competition

Maximum use of Australia's increased water potential in the next 10 to 15 years is expected to result in greater output of irrigated crops. For some of the commodities that will be involved, such as cotton and tobacco, this will mean decreased need for imports from the United States. Cotton is planned for the new agricultural lands to be developed in Queensland, New South Wales, and the Kimberley regions of Western Australia. Tobacco areas have already increased with expanded ditch irrigation in northern Queensland as well as in spray-irrigated sections of Victoria; and experimental research on the promotion of irrigated tobacco in Western Australia is also being emphasized. Exports of U.S. soybean oil to Australia may also be affected, both by current efforts to develop soybean and safflower cultivation in Queensland and by safflower production in the Ord-Fitzroy valleys of the Kimberleys.

As output of some other farm products increases, stiffer competition for U.S. exports to other countries may result. The completion of the Snowy Mountain Project, making available Australia's largest single supply of water for irrigation, is expected to bring considerable expansion of deciduous and vine fruits, hops, cotton, and rice. In future Northern Territory irrigated areas main expansion will be in rice, oilseeds, sorghums, and cattle pastures.

When all the new lands are producing, U.S. exports may feel increased pressure from those of Australia all over the world, but especially in the United Kingdom, Western Europe, Japan, Canada, and Africa.

Left, team of women pickers waits to begin; below, a picker with full basket of uncapped berries ready for crating.



Strawberries in Mexico

In April, Attache Henry Hopp visited Michoacan and Guanajuato to study Mexico's strawberry industry. This article summarizes what he learned.

The history of Mexico's strawberry business is one of continuous growth, with production and exports in 1962 at all-time highs. Most of Mexico's exports of berries (fresh, frozen, and preserved) have gone to the United States, with small quantities of frozen and preserved berries to Canada.

Mexico's strawberry production had increased slowly in the late 1940's, reaching 3.5 million pounds in 1949; but the next year, stimulated by the construction of new strawberry-freezing plants, it jumped to over 5.9 million. By 1955, it had tripled; and by 1962, at 56.2 million pounds, it had tripled again. For strawberry exports too there have been increases almost every year. Total exports of all types in 1962 were 43.6 million pounds.

Strawberry production

The commercial strawberry area amounts to some 11,000 acres, nearly all in Guanajuato and Michoacán.

The State of Guanajuato has always been the most important source for export berries. Area totals about 7,500 acres, mostly in the vicinity of Irapuato. The Michoacán area centers

around the town of Zamora. For 1963, the State's total is estimated at more than 3,000 acres, compared with only 160 in 1954.

In Michoacán, about 90 percent of the crop is Klondike, the variety used especially for freezing. In Guanajuato, the center of fresh fruit production, perhaps more than half the berries are Florida 90. The only other varieties of importance are Solana and Lassen. Older varieties, such as Blakemore and the local types called Negrita and Poderosa, have now mostly disappeared.

The planting season begins with soil preparation in late July or early August. After being plowed (mostly by tractors), the land is laid out in raised beds 3 feet from center to center, on which the plants are later set by hand 10 inches apart in a staggered double row. Cultivation and weeding are also mostly by hand.

The plants, when purchased from local nurseries such as the ones in Tizapán El Alto, cost about \$4.00 per thousand. The better growers, however, buy virus-free plants from the United States in May for about \$9.60

per thousand, set them in a nursery, and use the increase to plant the fields.

Production practices vary greatly. Under the best management, strawberries are kept on the land for one season only and are followed by other common crops of the area, such as alfalfa or wheat, for about 5 years.

On fertilizer practices, there is wide divergence in views. Total applications vary between about 270 and 700 pounds per acre and from ammonium sulfate alone to equal quantities of ammonium sulfate and superphosphate. There is no experimental basis for determining fertilizer recommendations for the area. Many farmers also apply sulfur to control alkalinity; a normal application is 270 pounds per acre. Still others use lime, at the rate of about 900 pounds per acre. Fertilizer prices average \$58 per short ton for ammonium sulfate and \$40 for superphosphate.

In 1953, yields were cut by unusually low temperatures; in 1956, by a combination of faulty irrigation methods and the widespread presence of nematodes and verticillium wilt. Other problems that affect the straw-



Plant at left is one of the larger strawberry freezers in Irapuato—State where the industry began 15 years ago. Mexico now has 10 such freezers.



Below, left, processing room in a freezer. Berries are decapped at long tables, then sorted at rear by size.

berry plants are red spider, aphids, leaf worms, and virus diseases. Growers usually spray or dust to control these.

Since 1956, many growers bothered by salinity and alkalinity have been improving their irrigation techniques and treating the soil. Nutrient deficiencies, current 10 years ago, are now also largely overcome by more liberal fertilizer applications.

Costs of production vary widely, depending on such factors as pickers' wages, yields, and water supply. For example, pickers are paid from 12 to 16 cents—slightly more in Michoacán than in Guanajuato — for filling a field crate (furnished by the freezing firm) with about $15\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of berries. A small part of the crop is capped in the field by the pickers, for prices ranging from 16 to 20 cents per crate in Guanajuato and 20 to 24 in Michoacán. Yields, however, affect harvesting costs. In Zamora, for the Klondike, a high yield is 7,000

pounds per acre; in Irapuato, for the Florida 90, 9,000 to 12,500. (The average in each area is much lower). Thus, harvesting could cost much more in Irapuato despite lower wages. But there are offsetting costs in each area; though labor is higher in Zamora, water is about four times cheaper.

Berries for the fresh market command a premium; prices range from 6.4 cents per pound ungraded for local sale to 10.9 cents for exports. Fresh berries are widely distributed to Mexican markets throughout the season. A few are sold beginning in December, but volume depends largely on frost. Packed with their caps, in baskets of about $15\frac{1}{2}$ pounds, fresh berries are mostly shipped in open trucks. There has been a substantial increase in domestic sales, from slightly over 2 million pounds during the early 1950's to 12.6 million in 1962.

The largest sizes of the best-quality berries— $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and up in diameter—are selected for export, packed in 12-pint trays, and shipped by refrigerated motor truck. Exports began in 1958 with 13,228 pounds and rose to 690,000, but for the past 2 years they have stayed closer to 440,000.

Strawberry processing

Mexico's first strawberry-freezing plant was started in Irapuato in 1948. At present there are 10 such plants: 4 in Irapuato (including the largest), 2 in Silao, 1 in León, 1 in Salamanca, and 2 in Morelia. One Silao plant did not operate this year or last, but

the Salamanca plant has been modernized and its capacity has increased substantially. This firm also produces strawberry preserves and marmalade, as well as various other fruit and vegetable products. One Irapuato plant also makes strawberry preserves; all the others, however, produce frozen strawberries only.

Exports of frozen berries, which began with only 375,000 pounds the year the first freezer opened, increased slowly to 14.8 million by 1956. A sharp expansion in 1959 began a series of new records each year; in 1962, exports reached 40.8 million pounds. Exports of preserves, only 81,570 pounds at their beginning in 1958, climbed to 4.6 million by 1962.

Total daily freezing capacity is about 36,000 30-pound cans; total storage capacity is slightly over 400,000 cans. The largest plant, however, has more than half the total storage; the others cannot store packed berries for more than a few days during the height of packing.

The freezing firms enter into contracts with growers each season for about three-fourths of their expected pack; one firm grows berries on its own land. Contracts for the 1962-63 season, as reported by the firms individually, total about 6,000 acres involving some 300 growers, or about 20 acres per grower. The company provides crop credit to the grower for plants, fertilizer, and other production needs. These loans, which may be as large as \$195 per acre, are liquidated when the berries are delivered.

Upon receipt the berries are

weighed and inspected for color, character, and defects such as mold. Average discount is about 5 percent. On the average, Guanajuato firms pay 5.8 cents per pound for capped berries and 6.9 for those without caps. The Michoacán firms pay somewhat less, about 5.2 cents in Zamora and 5.6 cents in Morelia.

After the berries are weighed and sampled for quality, women decap the berries by hand, at piece rates of 8.4 to 10.4 cents per crate. One worker can decap 15 to 20 crates a day. The berries then move on by conveyor belt for washing and inspection. Women remove remaining caps, other foreign matter, and defective berries or sort-outs; this inspection is based on U.S. grading standards. Finally, the berries are automatically sorted into large (5/8 inch and up in diameter), medium (3/8 to 5/8 inch), and small (less than 3/8 inch).

The two largest sizes are frozen whole or sliced; the smallest is crushed as puree. Size classes vary considerably during the season, but for the whole season about 40 to 50 percent of the berries run large, 35 to

45 percent medium, and 12 to 15 percent crushed berries and sort-outs.

The berries are put into specially lacquered cans of 30 pounds net capacity and sugar is added. The standard mixture is 4 parts berries to 1 of sugar; other mixtures are made on order for specific uses such as in ice cream (3 to 1 or 7 to 3). Crushed berries are shipped in a 27 to 1 mixture, to comply with Mexican tariff regulations.

Some freezers also have limited production of individual quick-frozen berries (IQF). Selected for size and quality, these berries are shipped in plastic bags and fiber drums with an average 50-pound capacity.

For preserves, the two plants involved use frozen medium-size berries in a 1 to 1 sugar mixture, packed in metal containers of about 40-pound capacity, for bakeries, and in smaller metal cans or glass jars, down to about 12 ounces. Only a small part of this production is destined for the export trade.

Costs in the freezing industry vary considerably by company, producing area, and season. However, typical

production costs for frozen berries can be estimated at about 10 cents up per pound of finished product, including plant-run of all sizes. This covers berry and sugar purchases, wages and salaries, cans, and processing expenses including overhead; but it does not allow for profit or amortization. Costs from the freezer to Laredo, Texas—including transportation, Mexican taxes, and U.S. duties—average about 3.6 cents per pound.

Practically all strawberry exports go through Laredo. Formerly, all frozen berries were shipped in iced-bunker freight cars holding 60,000 pounds each, but refrigerated motor trucks are becoming more popular. Though trucking still costs more, the berries usually reach the border in about 20 hours, compared with several days by rail, and the trucks maintain a more constant low temperature.

The strong upward trend in Mexican exports of frozen strawberries and preserves is expected to continue. And if the trade can solve transportation problems, winter-time exports of fresh berries to the United States may also sharply expand.

New Trade Publications

Geography of World Commodities Revised

The *Geography of Commodity Production*, issued in 1958 as a textbook for students of geography, was recently revised to present the latest statistical information available, generally as of 1961. This compendium of world production and trade in commodities is highly useful to writers on economic subjects and related fields as a single source of basic information on the major products of world commerce.

As in the first edition, commodities — described as "those movable materials and things that might have economic value"—are divided into four major categories: commodities derived from agriculture, sea and forest, mining, and manufacturing. Each part is introduced with a general discussion followed by emphasis on four major themes—the commodity's world significance, geographical location, production patterns, and trade factors.

Examples of important recent developments covered in this new edition are such events as the growth of the fisheries off the Peruvian coast and the important achievements of the Soviet Union and Communist China in the development of their mineral industries.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the revision is the graphics. All charts and tables have been updated to 1960 or 1961 and redrawn for greater clarity, and many new maps and illustrations have also been added.

GEOGRAPHY OF COMMODITY PRODUCTION. *Second Edition.* By Richard M. Highsmith, Jr. and J. Granville Jensen. Illustrated. 515 pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company. \$7.95.

U.S. Import Duties for 1963 Published

A listing of U.S. import duties as of July 1, 1963, is now available in the newest edition of a U.S. Tariff Commission publication, *United States Import Duties (1963)*.

Replacing the 1962 edition and its supplements, the book is expected to reflect the current rates for a period of 2 to 6 months. It does not include, however, the *Special and Administrative Provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended*, which are available in a separate volume. The new edition will remain in effect until such time as the revised Tariff Schedules of the United States, approved May 24, 1962, and provided for in Public Law 87-456, become operative.

In looseleaf form, the book may be purchased from the Division of Public Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 for \$1.50.

Haiti and Its People

This summer, Haiti has been much in the news. But the political problems that made the news have had little impact on Haiti's farmers, who are more than 80 percent of the population. They are absorbed in trying to grow enough on their tiny farms to feed their families and perhaps sell something at the market.

But this modest goal is difficult for the Haitians to reach. Three mountain ranges run east to west from the Dominican border to the Caribbean Sea, squeezing most agriculture into the coastal areas and the major river valleys. With the Hemisphere's highest population density, Haiti has the smallest arable area per person and the lowest food consumption.

The country exports chiefly coffee, sugar, and sisal, with the United States normally the big buyer. It must import food for its townspeople—wheat and flour, lard, soybean oil—and much of this has been coming from the United States under Food for Peace. Although most assistance projects have been terminated, U.S. food supplied under Title III of P.L. 480 will continue to help some 160,000 Haitians, including many children.



Above, rural market does a brisk business in food; below, milk is produced and sold only near cities.



Sugarcane on way to mill. National income has suffered from fact that Haitian cane cutters can no longer work in Cuba and Dominican Republic



Below, irrigation project in Cap-Haïtien area; at right, expert examines pilot soybean plot at experimental farm.



Thailand Emerges as Asia's Leading Food Exporter

Thailand, though not a large country, exports substantial quantities of food, and in world agricultural markets is fast gaining an important place for itself. Its position as a world grain exporter has risen steadily in recent years: in the value of its shipments it now ranks fourth after the United States, Canada, and France. It is running a close second in the world exports of rice and has set an extraordinary pace for corn. Eighteenth in the world corn trade in 1950, Thailand now occupies the fifth position.

Only 15 years ago Thailand was essentially a one-crop economy—and that crop was rice. Over the past decade, however, a new trend has evolved: the diversification of Thailand's agricultural economy.

This trend can be attributed mainly to the response of Thai farmers to world market conditions. For example, realizing their ability to produce and sell corn at competitive prices, they have upped corn output from 27,000 metric tons in 1950 to around 700,000 tons in 1962. And they are obtaining greater gross returns from corn than from rice—\$35.70 per acre in 1961 compared to \$21.42 for rice.

Cassava has also proved profitable quite recently. Responding to the demand for tapioca flour and meal in the United States and Western Europe, Thai farmers have increased their cassava output sevenfold since 1950.

Rice exports declining

This upsurge in corn and cassava has not diminished rice production, but merely started rice exports on a downward trend. Rice output has gone up about one-fifth since 1950, but rice exports as a percentage of total agricultural exports have fallen from 64 percent in 1950 to 44 percent in 1962. Rice's share in the total cultivated area is down too, partly because of the gradual decline of rice prices during the 1950's—from a high of \$7.23 per 100 pounds to a low of \$4.98.

Asia's rice exports, however, are still divided almost equally between Burma and Thailand, these countries accounting for three-fourths of the area's total. But while Singapore, the Federation of Malaya, and Hong Kong take over half of Thai rice exports, the general trend is toward a slight reduction in shipments to Asia and Europe and an increase in amounts going to Africa.

New money-makers

The picture is somewhat different for corn. Thailand is the only significant exporter of corn in Asia, supplying four-fifths of the area's corn exports.

In 1950 corn was a relatively unimportant crop in Thailand's economy. It represented less than 1 percent of agricultural exports as against 7 percent in 1962. This same period saw corn production mount from 27,000 metric tons to 700,000; and since corn is used only in limited quantities in Thailand, a large part of the production is

THREE NEW FOOD EXPORTS OF THAILAND

Year	Corn	Cassava	Livestock & Products
	<i>Mil. U.S. dols.</i>	<i>Mil. U.S. dols.</i>	<i>Mil. U.S. dols.</i>
1954-56	3.68	3.27	3.72
1958	8.70	8.44	5.07
1960	26.21	12.87	10.88
1961	28.42	20.37	19.24
1962	23.91	19.24	6.68

exported—90 to 95 percent in recent years.

Much of Thailand's success with corn stems from the Thai Government's promotion of it as an export commodity. In 1961, to assure the high quality of corn exports, the government put corn sales under the Export Standardization Act of 1960, which requires that Standard-Quality Certificates be produced at customs offices prior to actual exportation.

Most of the Thai corn exported goes to Japan—60 percent in 1961—and there it has enjoyed a favorable position in that it has consistently been priced below corn from other countries. For example, during the first half of 1960, the price averaged \$59.16 per metric ton compared with \$59.80 for U.S. corn, \$59.90 for corn from Argentina, and \$59.57 for corn from the Republic of South Africa. Thailand also exports corn to Singapore (15 percent), the United Kingdom (11 percent), and Hong Kong (8 percent).

Cassava was another quite unimportant crop a decade ago. Because of the strong demand for tapioca flour and meal, Thailand has increased its cassava output sevenfold since 1950, producing 1.5 million metric tons in 1961. Correspondingly, there has been an increase in cassava exports.

Shipping only 19,000 tons of cassava flour in 1950, Thailand boosted its exports to 379,000 in 1962. This figure is a drop from the previous high of 416,000 tons in 1961, caused partly by the imposition of foreign restrictions, principally by West Germany.

In 1955 the major markets for Thailand's cassava were Asia (Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaya) and the United States. Today Germany, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States are the biggest buyers.

Livestock products, mung beans, peanuts, and chili are other food items which Thailand exports in significant quantities. These have more than doubled since 1950, with most shipments going to Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan, although in the last few years some of the West European countries and the United States have started buying small amounts of dried chili.

In the past Thailand traditionally had imported several thousand tons of centrifugal sugar to fill the gap between domestic production and consumption. Now, with domestic sugar output increasing steadily, Thailand is seeking foreign markets in which to sell its sugar.

—EVELINE E. BURGESS AND LESTER R. BROWN
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Note. Food, as used here, excludes tea.

Promotion Program for Pork in Japan Helps Up Sales of U.S. Feed Grains

A pork promotion program in Japan has been so successful that the Japanese Food Agency—one year ago troubled by mounting pork surpluses—recently announced plans to make an "emergency import" of 3,000 tons of pork. This \$2-million order has already been placed in the United States, the largest purchase of U.S. pork ever made by Japan.

Cooperating in this market development program are the U.S. Feed Grains Council, the Japan Meat Dealers Association, and FAS. The program aims to increase utilization of feed grains by first raising consumption levels of livestock products.

Early in 1962 it became apparent that some kind of stimulus to raise pork consumption in Japan was needed.

Because of encouragement by the Japanese Government, the number of swine increased by 50 percent over the previous year's, greatly exceeding demand. To minimize losses to swine producers, the Japanese Government began to buy pork in the open market.

The pork promotion campaign got underway in March last year with the showing of promotional film shorts over Japanese television. The "Meat Festival" which followed, however, made the greater impact. For one week, meat retailers in Japan's major cities sold pork and pork products at reduced prices. Japanese radio, television, and newspapers promoted the event.

During the Festival, pork sales in the selected cities picked up by 30 per-

cent, and then settled at a level which was 12-13 percent higher than sales prior to the campaign. Throughout Japan total pork sales averaged 6 percent above those of the prior period.

The Feed Grains Council is planning a similar "Meat Festival" for this fall which will emphasize red meat.

Though an estimated 58,000-ton increase in coarse grain shipments to Japan is seen for this past fiscal year, the full effect of the program on grain exports will be felt in the months ahead. Hog producers cut back in production after the period of pork surpluses, and are just now raising larger herds in response to growing demand. Even so the current deficit necessitated the import of 3,000 tons of pork.

In the long run, the United States expects feed grain sales to Japan to continue their upward trend, as red meat consumption increases and the local livestock industry expands.

Film To Promote Exports Of U.S. Citrus to Europe

The California-Arizona citrus industry has arranged with United Artist Pictures to distribute a film-short on citrus fruit as a tie-in with United's top films shown in Europe.

The first version—just released in France—is narrated in French by one of the country's outstanding TV personalities. Adaptations in German and Dutch will follow.

The film was developed from and updates the previous California-Arizona citrus movies, "Citrus, the Golden Fruit" and "The Golden Story of Citrus." About 15 minutes in length, the new production is a type of travelogue combining shots of citrus groves, and the packing, marketing, and use of citrus fruits.

Other scenes are of Disneyland, a Franciscan mission, Laguna Beach, a rodeo parade in Phoenix, Arizona. Part of the French adaptation shows

two famous Parisian restaurants using citrus fruits in their "haute cuisine."

The film is part of the 9-country market development program of the California-Arizona citrus industry in cooperation with FAS.

Wheat Growers Receive "E" Award in Denver

Aggressive promotion of U.S. wheat sales in Japan has earned a Presidential "E" Award for the Colorado Wheat Administrative Committee, the USDA announced recently.

Its chairman, J. W. C. Davis, received the blue and white "E" banner and citation from Dr. Roland R. Renne, USDA Assistant Secretary, at special ceremonies in Denver July 29. Mr. Renne cited the group for its "leadership and initiative in the assembly and shipment of trial cargoes and by actively encouraging the grain trade." The CWAC represents 21,500 Colorado wheat farmers.

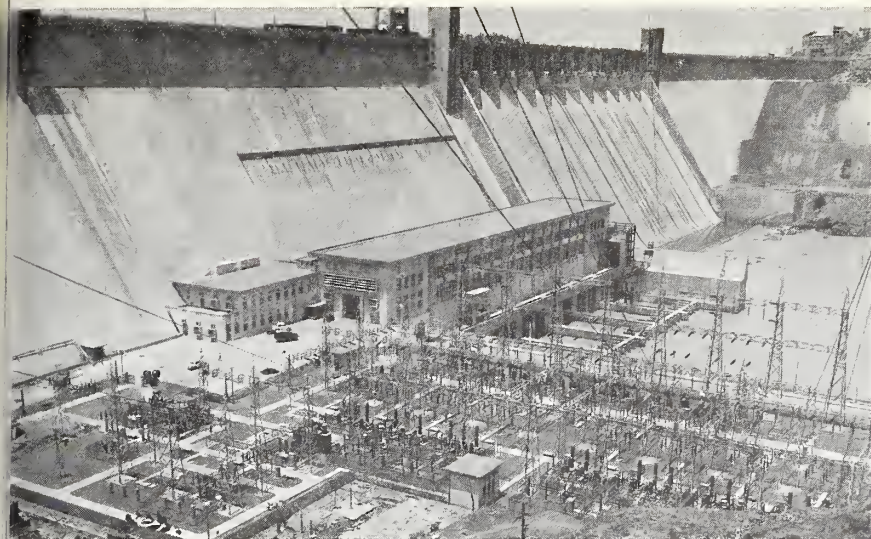
American Leathers Get First Showing in Paris

Trail-blazing for bigger U.S. leather sales to Europe, the Tanners' Council of America, in cooperation with FAS, will participate for the first time in the leather show, "Semaine de Cuir," in Paris, France, Sept. 6-12.

The Council, under the theme of "Value and Quality in Volume," will display and demonstrate an array of leather products manufactured by the American leather industry.

The Tanners' Council will be among some 300 exhibitors from 28 countries to show their leather products in the Paris show, considered the world's foremost leather-style event.

This is the second activity under a market development agreement between FAS and the Tanners' Council to promote the sale of leather products in Europe. In November, the Council will also participate in the U.S. Exhibition at Amsterdam.



Rihand Dam, Uttar Pradesh

P.L. 480 Ends 7th Year in India

Seven years ago this month, the first U.S. agreement with India under Public Law 480—the Food for Peace program — was signed. Since then, U.S. foodstuffs valued at over 1.7 billion dollars have arrived at Indian ports under Titles I, II, and III, making India the largest recipient of U.S. P.L. 480 agricultural commodities.

This aid has been of inestimable value to the Indian economy, according to S. K. Patil, Minister of Agriculture. On a recent visit to Washington, D.C., Mr. Patil stated that the assistance offered India under P.L. 480 —particularly the 4-year Indo-United States program signed in 1960—had helped India by creating a “food bank” on which the nation could draw when natural disaster or crop failure threatened. It had also helped keep food prices stable, preserved scarce foreign exchange, and had given India time to push forward its own farm production and economic development.

Most of the food assistance to India under P.L. 480 has been under Title I, sales for local currencies. This has included millions of tons of wheat, and smaller quantities of dairy products, soybean oil, canned fruit, feed grains, cotton, and tobacco.

The 1960 Indo-U.S. agreement was the biggest single international food deal in history: under it, India is receiving, over a 4-year period, 587 million bushels of wheat and 22 million

bags of rice. India pays in rupees.

The first Title I agreement with India was signed August 29, 1956. Since then, eight Title I agreements have been concluded, covering the shipment of \$2,431 million of agricultural commodities to India from the United States.

Title I rupees

Eighty percent of the rupee proceeds accruing from Title I sales are being used in India to help finance economic, educational, and social development projects. Title I rupees helped build the huge 250,000 kilowatt Rihand Dam in Uttar Pradesh. Projects like the Rihand Dam, which is providing power, flood control, irrigation, navigation and other economic benefits to India's industry and agriculture, are building its economy while conserving its foreign exchange.

The Government of India and AID have spent \$250 million worth of rupees on other types of projects, too—to eradicate malaria, expand schools, and construct highways and food storage depots. Another \$540 million has gone into fertilizer plants, thermal power stations, and electric plants.

Title I funds also give impetus to private enterprise abroad through so-called “Cooley loans.” Seven percent of the rupees accruing under P.L. 480 programs in India are being loaned to U.S. firms and private investors for

purposes designed to increase consumption and markets for U.S. agricultural commodities. Another 13 percent is set aside for U.S. administrative and governmental uses.

Under Title II (emergency relief and economic development) more than 8.5 million dollars worth of U.S. agricultural commodities have been imported into India. Some of these farm products can be used to pay workers on community projects.

“Food for work”

An example of the “food for work” program can be seen in West Bengal State where former unemployed workers are cleaning water storage tanks. The tanks store water during the monsoon season and irrigate rice fields during the dry season. Wages are foods provided under Title II.

Under Title III, private charities and intergovernmental organizations are eligible to buy and distribute U.S. surplus foods for donation to needy persons both at home and abroad. In the last 7 years, over 200 million dollars' worth of these commodities have been distributed in India by organizations like CARE, Church World Service, the International Red Cross, and United Nation's Children's Fund.

School lunches

These voluntary agencies have developed the world's largest school lunch program in India. Last year, more than 3.5 million children ate a mid-day meal at school, and an additional 3.6 million received mid-day milk. This number is expected to increase substantially during 1963-64.

Also last year, these agencies provided emergency food to flood victims in the States of Assam and Bihar. Typical foods distributed under Title III are wheat, bulgur wheat, corn, nonfat dry milk, vegetable oils, butter, ghee, beans, and cheese.

Title III includes barter, an arrangement whereby the United States and India exchange food for industrial goods. The barter program has provided India with about 38 million dollars worth of agricultural commodities for manganese ore.

—HORACE J. DAVIS

U.S. Agricultural Attaché, New Delhi

Egypt Exports More Cotton

Egypt's cotton exports during the first 9 months (August-April) of the 1962-63 season amounted to 1,015,000 bales (500 pounds gross)—13 percent more than the 898,000 bales shipped in the same 1961-62 period. Russia replaced Czechoslovakia as the largest buyer of Egyptian cotton, while Czechoslovakia slipped to second place.

During the August-April portion of the 1962-63 season, Egypt's cotton exports to Communist countries increased to 636,000 bales, or 63 percent of total shipments, compared with 415,000 bales, or 46 percent, during the same months a year earlier. Export commitments during the September-April period comprised over 85 percent of total cotton exports in both the 1962-63 and the 1961-62 seasons. Stocks were thus substantially exhausted, and forward sales of 1963-64 new-crop cotton have been large.

Policy objectives announced in connection with nationalization of the Egyptian cotton industry beginning in 1961 included the stabilization of export prices and the elimination of varying price discounts for specified currencies; the maintenance of traditional Western markets; and the prevention of Communist re-exports of Egyptian cotton at discounted prices.

Quantities exported to major destinations from August 1962 through April 1963, with comparable 1961 figures in parentheses, were: USSR 227,000 bales (173,000); Czechoslovakia 160,000 (107,000); Communist China, 111,000 (30,000); India 84,000 (60,000); Italy 45,000 (45,000); Japan 41,000 (35,000); West Germany 39,000 (29,000); and Yugoslavia 33,000 (47,000).

Exports during the full 1962-63 season are placed at about 1,400,000 bales—up 25 percent from last season's outflow of 1,121,000 bales and nearly equal to average annual exports of 1,435,000 in the 5-year period 1957-61. Prices of Egyptian cotton on world import markets have been at levels near those of the 1961-62 season. Offering quotations for Karnak FG, c.i.f. Liverpool, averaged 41.17 U.S. cents per pound in December 1962, compared with 44.90 cents in December 1961.

During the week ending July 28, the Egyptian Cotton Commission raised the official export selling prices for all grades of new crop Giza 45 (Isis) cotton by 2 tallaris per metric cantar, or the equivalent of 83 cent points per pound (100 cent points=1 cent); the prices for all grades of menoufi and karnak were raised by 1/2 to 1 1/2 tallaris, or 21 to 62 cent points per pound.

Egypt's 1962-63 cotton crop is now placed at 2,101,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight), according to the fourth and final official estimate. This figure is 36 percent above the 1961-62 crop of 1,542,000 bales and 8 percent above average production of 1,949,000 for the previous 5 crop years. The larger 1962-63 crop was largely attributable to high yields as a result of favorable weather and rigorous insect control measures.

Cotton consumption during the 1962-63 season in Egypt is estimated at 590,000 bales, compared with 594,000 used during 1961-62 and the average annual consumption of 525,000 in 1957-61. Domestic offtake during the first 9 months of the season rose 8 percent above the 442,000 bales used in the corresponding 1961-62 period. Ashmouni accounted for about three-fourths of the cotton used. The Egyptian Government announced, during the week ending July 27, that sales for export of all Ashmouni and Dendera classing Good and lower would be prohibited. This is due to the government's policy of covering the domestic consumption with medium staple and increasing the long staple exports.

Stocks on hand August 1, 1962, are estimated at 415,000 bales—down considerably from the beginning stocks of 475,000 bale inventory on August 1, 1961. Beginning stocks for the 1963-64 season are estimated at less than 400,000 bales.

Mozambique and Angola Ship Cotton to Portugal

The governments of Mozambique and Angola recently issued orders that all exportable supplies of cotton are henceforth to be shipped to Portugal. As a result of Portugal's abolition of import duties on lint cotton, these exports will bring slightly higher prices, ranging from the equivalent of 34.47 U.S. cents per pound for Type I to 23.13 cents for Type VI, c.i.f. Lisbon.

Present estimates of the 1962-63 cotton crops in Mozambique and Angola are 185,000 and 35,000 bales (500 pounds gross), respectively, compared with 187,000 and 20,000 in 1961-62. It is now estimated that about 210,000 bales were shipped from the two countries in 1962-63, against 171,000 a year earlier. Most of the cotton went to Portugal, though small quantities have been exported to Japan and the United Kingdom.

Mexico's First Meat Convention Successful

Mexico's meat industry held its first national convention July 22-25, 1963, at the National University in Mexico City. Over 200 people attended the convention, including about 15 Americans. Its importance to the country is underlined by the fact that the Mexican livestock industry is not only providing the country's meat requirements but shipping the equivalent of 1 million head of cattle to the United States, in the form of feeder cattle and meat.

The convention covered a wide range of subjects. Its announced purposes were as follows: To study the present status of the production, exportation, processing, sanitation and consumption of slaughter cattle and byproducts throughout the country; to evaluate and correlate the problems that affect the meat industry, for the purpose of studying and solving them; to formulate recommendations, based on these studies for improving cattle quality, in-

creasing production, and lowering consumer prices through scientific research and technology; and to coordinate the efforts of governmental authorities, cattlemen, and industrialists to better meet the Mexican population's need for animal proteins and that of industry for byproducts.

After the initial session, the convention was conducted in four sections—animal husbandry, animal nutrition, animal sanitation and hygiene, and economics and industry.

The convention terminated with the establishment of a permanent working committee which will present recommendations to the government in cooperation with the Mexican meat industry.

Livestock Numbers, Meat Production in Russia

The Soviet Central Statistics Administration reports that the numbers of cattle (including cows) on collective and state farms on July 1 this year was 68.1 million, up 3 million over a year ago. Cow numbers, at 22.4 million were up 1.6 million; sheep and goat numbers, at 133.7 million, were up 2.4 million. Swine numbers were down slightly from the 1962 level of 52.9 million.

Meat production for the first 6 months of 1963, excluding that of collective farms for their own needs and private production, was reported at 3.7 billion pounds—an increase of 19 percent over the previous year.

Pig Processing Plant for Northern Ireland

A large U.S. company, with headquarters in Chicago, has reached agreement with the Northern Ireland Pigs Marketing Board to build and operate a new \$2.5-million hog-slaughter plant in Fermanagh, Northern Ireland. The new factory will begin operations in 1964.

This plant is one of six new facilities which are planned or have been built in Northern Ireland by six different processing and packing firms (*Foreign Agriculture*, July 1, 1963).

West Germany Expects Bigger Tobacco Crop

The 1963 tobacco harvest in West Germany is tentatively forecast at 24 million pounds, slightly larger than the 1962 harvest of 21.2 million but still only about one-half the 1955-59 annual average of 47.7 million. Minor occurrences of blue mold have been reported, but effective control measures have kept crop loss to a minimum.

The 1963 harvest of cigar leaf is forecast at 12.6 million pounds, compared with 11.2 million in 1962. Burley production, at 10.1 million pounds, is expected to be about 30 percent greater than the 1962 harvest of 7.8 million pounds. The flue-cured harvest is estimated at 1.3 million pounds, compared with last season's harvest of 2.1 million.

Ivory Coast's Cigarette Output Rising

Production of cigarettes in the Ivory Coast during 1962 totaled 2.8 million pounds, over 3 times the 1959 level of 0.9 million. During 1960 it had amounted to 1.2 million pounds; as a result of a substantial rise in exports

to the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Niger, it rose to 2.6 million in 1961. Shipments to these destinations had begun in 1960.

Early estimates had placed cigarette output at 3.1 million pounds for 1962. However, exports to the Republic of Mali and the Republic of Niger did not approach earlier expectations; they represented 16 and 12 percent, respectively, of total output during 1962, compared with 24 and 14 percent in 1961.

Increased Cigarette Production in Venezuela

Cigarette output in Venezuela continued to rise through 1962. Output last year totaled 7.8 billion pieces—up 6.2 percent from the 7.4 billion produced in 1961.

Production of light-type cigarettes continues upward; they represented 90.3 percent of total output during 1962, compared with 86.3 percent in 1961 and 83.6 percent in 1960. Output of dark-type cigarettes showed an upward trend through 1960, to a high of 1,124 million pieces, but then turned downward, to 972 million in 1961 and 759 million in 1962.

Trinidad's Cigarette Output Up Slightly

Cigarette output in Trinidad and Tobago during 1962 totaled 1,856,000 pounds, compared with 1,854,000 in 1961. Production of other products amounted to 25,800 pounds compared with the 24,300 pounds produced during the previous year.

Larger Tobacco Harvest Forecast for Turkey

The 1963 tobacco harvest in Turkey, forecast at 267 million pounds, is the third largest crop on record—exceeded only by the 1960 high of 298 million and the 1959 crop of 285 million. Planted acreage is estimated at a record 530,000 acres, compared with 371,000 in 1962 and the previous 1960 high of 465,000.

The recurrence of blue mold again this season reduced earlier harvest expectations, particularly in the Aegean area, where the crop estimate was cut from 220 million pounds to 143 million. Blue mold damage to crops in the other producing areas is currently not known.

France's Trade in Butter Increases

France exported 20 million pounds of butter in the first quarter of 1963—an increase of 16 percent over the corresponding quarter a year earlier. Shipments to Italy rose to 3 million pounds from less than 1 million in 1962, while those to the United Kingdom were over 2 million (there were none last year). Hungary, a new market, took 2 million pounds. Exports to West Germany declined to 4.6 million pounds from 5.6 million, and those to outlets in Africa also went down.

Imports of butter rose from 0.3 million pounds to 1.4 million and were supplied entirely by Denmark and the Netherlands.

Exports of cheese at 18.6 million pounds, were 11 percent less than in the first quarter of 1962. Smaller sales

to Algeria—2.5 million pounds compared with 9 million—accounted for most of this decline. Only West Germany increased its purchases in this period, to 7 million pounds from 3 million last year. There was practically no change in sales to Belgium or Italy; each took approximately 2 million pounds in both years. Shipments to Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States also remained at the 1962 level.

Cheese imports were 10 million pounds in both years. Only the Netherlands bought more in the first quarter of 1963—2.8 million pounds, against 1.2 million last year.

Finnish Dairy Products Production Is Down

Finnish farmers in the first quarter of 1963 delivered about 1,325 million pounds of milk to dairy plants for manufacturing into dairy products—about 0.8 percent less than in the comparable 1962 period. Total milk production was down in this period, because of the poor quality of forage and feeds from the 1962 crop.

As a result of these smaller milk supplies for manufacturing, output of all dairy products was also down. Butter production, at 42.8 million pounds, was 1 percent less than a year ago, and production of cheese, largely Swiss types, was down to 14.8 million pounds from more than 15 million. Dry milk production, at 4.4 million pounds, declined 11 percent from a year earlier.

Unofficial reports indicate that milk production, and in turn, deliveries and output of dairy products may have improved in the second quarter of 1963 because of the warm spring.

Trinidad Restricts Poultry Imports

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has issued regulations restricting the issuance of import licenses for frozen, ready-to-cook roaster chickens. By the local definition, a roaster is any bird of between 3 and 4 pounds, dressed weight, regardless of age.

One reason given for this restriction is that local production is adequate to supply the current market; demand for roaster-type birds is limited at this time of the year.

Another reason is that prices for the local birds have dropped to 84-86 BWI cents per pound (51-52 U.S.) and are considered to be competitive with those of imported birds, now selling at 48-49 U.S. cents per pound.

Import licenses will probably be renewed by the Christmas holiday season. Demand for U.S. broilers and fryers remains brisk in spite of rapidly increasing local production. High feed costs still prevent local producers from selling these smaller birds at competitive prices.

Canadian Grain Acreage Slightly Larger

Canada's grain acreage is slightly larger this year than it was in 1962, according to the first official estimate, released August 8.

Increases of 673,000 acres in wheat areas and 873,000 in barley account for most of the gain; a small increase in oats for grain is of no significance.

Only a small part of the increase in grain acreage came out of summer fallow, which was reduced from 27.4 million acres in 1962 to 27.2 million for the current season.

CANADA: ACREAGE UNDER SPECIFIED GRAINS AND SUMMER FALLOW 1963, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Average 1950-59	1960	1961	1962	1963
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres
Wheat	24,430	24,538	25,316	26,893	27,56
Oats ²	10,388	9,620	8,543	10,591	10,61
Barley	8,443	6,857	5,529	5,287	6,16
Rye	868	561	561	668	65
Summer fallow	23,640	26,893	27,860	27,398	27,21

¹ Preliminary forecasts. ² Oats for grain only. ³ In Prairie Provinces.

Reports of the Dominican Bureau of Statistics.

Canned Fruit and Juice Prices in London

Selling prices in London (landed, duty paid) of selected canned fruits and juices in July 1962, April 1963, and July 1963 are compared as follows:

Types and quality	Unit	Price per dozen units			Origin
		July 1962	April 1963	July 1963	
CANNED FRUIT	Cans	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	U.S. dol.	
Apricots:					
Whole, unpeeled, choice	303	2.22	2.54	2.22	U.S.
Halves:					
Choice	2 1/2	3.52	3.20	3.20	S. Africa
Choice	2 1/2	4.15	3.72	3.87	U.S.
Standard	2 1/2	3.57	3.04	3.04	Australia
Standard	2 1/2	3.52	2.99	2.99	S. Africa
Standard	10	(¹)	11.55	11.55	S. Africa
Peaches, halves:					
Choice	2 1/2	3.59	3.18	3.18	S. Africa
Choice	2 1/2	3.32	3.42	3.40	U.S.
Choice	2 1/2	3.57	3.22	3.22	Australia
Standard	2 1/2	3.37	2.99	2.99	S. Africa
Standard	2 1/2	3.40	3.03	3.03	Australia
Choice	303	(¹)	2.29	2.24	U.S.
Standard	1	2.14	1.90	1.90	Australia
Standard	1	2.01	1.87	1.87	S. Africa
Pears, halves:					
Choice	2 1/2	3.81	3.60	3.46	S. Africa
Choice	2 1/2	3.78	3.64	3.64	Australia
Choice	2 1/2	4.48	4.13	(¹)	U.S.
Standard	2 1/2	3.59	3.40	3.40	S. Africa
Standard	2 1/2	3.64	3.43	3.43	Australia
Standard	1	2.24	2.05	2.05	Australia
Fruit cocktail:					
Choice	303	2.35	2.36	2.35	U.S.
Choice	15 oz.	2.17	2.05	2.05	Spain
Choice	8 oz.	1.42	1.34	1.39	U.S.
Grapefruit sections:					
Fancy	303	2.12	(¹)	2.31	U.S.
No. 2	20 oz.	2.87	2.78	2.73	Israel
Quality not specified	20 oz.	2.76	(¹)	2.62	W. Indies
Pineapple slices:					
Fancy	2 1/2	3.26	(¹)	3.15	Taiwan
Fancy	2	3.57	3.57	(¹)	U.S.
Choice	16 oz.	1.89	(¹)	1.50	S. Africa
Spiral standard (G.A.Q.)	16 oz.	1.81	1.55	1.54	Malaya
CANNED JUICES					
Single strength:					
Orange	2	1.55	1.96	1.80	U.S.
Orange	19 oz.	2.02	(¹)	1.92	Israel
Orange	46 oz.	3.70	4.58	(¹)	U.S.
Grapefruit	2	1.72	(¹)	1.66	W. Indies
Grapefruit	46 oz.	2.92	3.99	4.15	U.S.

¹ Not quoted.

Canned Fruit and Juice Prices in Netherlands

Importers' selling prices in the Netherlands of selected canned fruit and juices June 1962, May 1963, and July 1963 compare as follows:

Types and quality	Unit	Price per dozen units			Origin
		June 1962	May 1963	July 1963	
CANNED FRUIT	<i>Cans</i>	<i>U.S. dol.</i>	<i>U.S. dol.</i>	<i>U.S. dol.</i>	
Apricots, halves:					
Choice	8 oz.	1.69	1.96	1.96	U.S.
Standard	303	2.42	2.98	2.98	U.S.
Peaches, halves:					
Choice	2½	4.18	4.04	4.11	U.S.
White	15 oz.	2.85	2.85	2.85	Japan
Standard slices	2½ oz.	3.78	3.78	3.85	U.S.
Standard slices	15½ oz.	(¹)	2.35	2.32	S. Africa
Pears, halves:					
Standard	303	3.48	2.49	2.49	U.S.
Standard	14 oz.	(¹)	2.15	2.15	Italy
Fruit cocktail:					
Choice	2½	4.71	4.51	4.94	U.S.
Choice	303	3.12	2.95	3.02	U.S.
Mandarin oranges:					
Fancy, small	11 oz.	2.52	2.65	2.65	Japan
Pineapple:					
Fancy, sliced	2½	5.27	5.30	4.48	U.S.
Choice, sliced	2½	4.21	4.18	4.18	U.S.
Standard, sliced	2½	3.91	3.91	3.81	U.S.
Pieces	20 oz.	2.35	2.29	2.32	Taiwan
CANNED JUICE					
Orange:					
Unsweetened	2	2.06	2.49	2.65	U.S.
Unsweetened	2	(¹)	3.25	2.32	Greece
Grapefruit:					
Sweetened	2	(¹)	2.22	2.32	U.S.
Sweetened	46 oz.	(¹)	4.81	5.14	U.S.

¹ Not quoted.

Canadian Sunflowerseed Support Unchanged

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture recently announced that the support price for the 1963 sunflowerseed crop will remain at 4.22 Canadian cents per pound, the same as for the 1962 crop. This rate applies to Canada No. 1 grade, 10-percent moisture 1963-crop sunflowerseed, basis delivery to the crusher.

A deficiency payment program through the Agricultural Stabilization Board will provide this support to producers of sunflowerseed for crushing. The support is 100 percent of the base price; that is, 100 percent of the average price received by farmers during the previous 10 years.

Although official acreage estimates are not yet available, it is expected that 1963 sunflower plantings will be significantly above the 23,000 acres planted in 1962, from which 8,700 short tons were produced.

Finland's Rapeseed Production Estimated

Finland's 1963 oilseed production, limited to winter turnip-rapeseed, is unofficially estimated at 7,000 to 8,000 metric tons, compared with the 7,900 tons produced in 1962. The area for the 1963 crop, seeded in July-August 1962, was 17,000 acres or 8 percent above the 15,800 acres seeded in 1961. Seedings in July-August 1963, for harvest in July 1964, are unofficially estimated at nearly 20,000 acres, on the basis of seed purchases by growers.

Much of this year's crop was damaged by dry spring

weather, consequently, the quality of the seed is reported to be highly variable. In the southwestern section there was considerable damage from insect infestation.

Oil production from the 1963 rapeseed crop is estimated at about 3,000 tons, refined basis. This is equivalent to about one-fifth of the total annual requirement of the Finnish margarine industry.

Since the government discontinued its oilseed price supports, producer prices in Finland have been fixed, by agreement between producers and the processing industry, at a level determined by the "landed cost" plus the import fee on rapeseed. During July-September 1963, producers will be paid 85 penni per kilogram (12.05 U.S. cents per pound) for seed of 98 percent purity and 9 percent moisture. The current price is about 5 percent below that of last year.

Japan's Soybean, Safflower Imports Increase

Japan's imports of soybeans and safflowerseed in the first 6 months of 1963 increased sharply from the comparable period last year, but its imports of soybean meal dropped.

JAPAN: SOYBEAN, SAFFLOWERSEED, AND SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS; JAN-JUNE 1963, WITH COMPARISONS

Commodity and major source	1961	1962	January-June	
			1962	1963
	<i>1,000 metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 metric tons</i>	<i>1,000 metric tons</i>
Soybeans:				
United States ...	1,101.9	1,125.8	583.1	666.5
Total	1,158.3	1,293.1	704.6	773.3
Safflower seed:				
United States ...	71.7	63.1	26.1	56.7
Total	72.9	63.2	26.2	56.7
Soybean cake and meal:				
United States ...	55.0	5.9	5.5	.4
Total	56.4	15.8	14.3	.8

Compiled from official sources.

Soybean imports at 773,293 metric tons (28.4 million bushels), were 14 percent above the first half of last year. U.S. beans accounted for 24.5 million bushels, or 86 percent of this total.

Safflowerseed imports, at 56,719 metric tons, were more than double the quantity imported in the first half of 1962 and came entirely from the United States.

Imports of soybean cake and meal declined from 14,301 tons through June of last year to only 782 tons this year. About one-half of the total was from the United States. This decline from the heavy imports of 1961 probably has reflected in large part the liberalization of soybeans in 1961.

Rhodesia Buys Nyasaland Sugar

A Rhodesian company is contracting to supply Nyasaland with sugar for the next 5 years. Nyasaland will buy 15,000 long tons (16,800 short tons) of sugar a year for the next 3 years—an amount equivalent to about half of Rhodesia's current sugar exports—the price will be

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£45 per long ton (U.S. \$83.57 per short ton), a new price could be negotiated at the end of the 3 years.

This agreement will provide a guaranteed market for some of Rhodesia's export production. The country is now exporting sugar to Canada, the United States, and Britain.

U.S. Green Coffee Imports Down

Green coffee imports into the United States during January-June 1963 totaled 11 million bags (of 132.276 lbs. each) valued at \$432 million, compared with 11.9 million bags valued at \$481.7 million for the first 6 months of 1962.

South America accounted for 53 percent of the imports, followed by Africa with 24 percent, North America with 21 percent, and Asia and Oceania with 2 percent.

For the whole calendar year 1962, imports of green coffee into the United States totaled 24.5 million bags valued at \$986.5 million.

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